



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
International Peace Park
Biosphere Reserve
World Heritage Site

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Glacier National Park News Release

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Entire Going-to-the-Sun Road Now Open for 24-Hour Travel *Sperry Chalet and Lake McDonald Lodge Reopen This Week*

WEST GLACIER, MONT. – A steady stream of vehicles came through the west entrance to Glacier National Park Sunday as traffic was allowed on the entire Going-to-the-Sun Road (Sun Road) across Logan Pass for the first time since August 10. The west side of the Sun Road was closed when high winds caused the Robert Fire to jump the Camas Road and burn east across Howe Ridge west of Lake McDonald. At 6 a.m. the entire 50-mile-long Sun Road reopened for traffic between West Glacier and St Mary.

Because of ongoing potential hazards from wildfires, no stopping is currently allowed between the head of Lake McDonald (Kelly Camp Road) and Bird Woman Falls Overlook (3.5 miles east of the Loop). Bicycles are also prohibited in the “no stopping” portion of the Sun Road until further notice.

Private landowners with cabins on the north end of Lake McDonald were allowed to return to their homes on an unrestricted basis Sunday. Residents of the historic Kelly Camp, on the northwest shore, were also allowed to return to their homes Sunday morning, but only by boat. Because of the Robert Fire burnout near the Kelly Camp Road, there is a danger from falling rocks and tree snags. Residents of Kelly Camp and elsewhere along the head of Lake McDonald are advised against going near the burnout area. Lake McDonald remains temporarily closed to boating due to aerial support for the Robert Fire burnout along Stanton Mountain.

With the entire Sun Road reopening, Sperry Chalet and Lake McDonald Lodge are preparing for a phased reopening of each facility. Sperry Chalet will again accept overnight guests beginning tonight. Glacier Park, Inc. plans to reopen the Lake McDonald Campstore Tuesday morning and the Lake McDonald Lodge at noon on Wednesday.

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Apgar Village and Apgar Campground have reopened. Sprague Creek Campground reopens today at noon; however, Fish Creek and Avalanche campgrounds remain closed.

Visitor services remain available on the east, south and north sides of Glacier National Park, including Granite Park Chalet, the Highline trail and the Swiftcurrent Pass trail. The park's North Fork area, north from Lake McDonald and west of the Continental Divide, and the Camas Road remains temporarily closed until further notice. Trail status is available at <http://www.nps.gov/glac/activities/trails.htm>.

Four major wildfires continue to burn in Glacier National Park. The Robert Fire is located in the vicinity of the West Glacier/Apgar and west shore Lake McDonald area. The Trapper Creek Fire is in the north central portion of the park, primarily northwest of the Loop on the Sun Road. The Wedge Canyon Fire is located in the remote northwest corner of the park near Kintla Lake and Flathead National Forest and private land adjacent to the forest. The Wolf Gun Fire is on the south side of Logging Lake. Current information on the fires burning with the park is available at the Interagency Joint Information Center at (406) 755-3910. Fire information is also available at www.fs.fed.us/r5/fire/ciimt5/ac/.

Because of ongoing extremely dry conditions, no open flames are allowed in Glacier National Park until further notice. Due to State II fire restrictions, smoking is prohibited (including pipes) except inside vehicles and buildings where permitted.

Smoke conditions from area wildfire change depending on local weather conditions. Current visibility in the park can be checked by viewing Glacier's web cams at www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew.htm. Updates on air quality are also available at www.flatheadhealth.org/commonhealth/firealerts.htm.

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